

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

160736Z Jun 03

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 COLOMBO 001046

SIPDIS

STATE FOR ECA/PE/V/G/N-ALICE SHIFFLETT; INFO: SA/PD

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OEXC](#) [SCUL](#) [KPAO](#) [OEXC](#)

SUBJECT: FY-2004 IV SOUTH ASIA RP ON "RELIGIOUS
DIVERSITY IN THE U.S." - FEBRUARY 16-MARCH 5, 2004: SRI
LANKAN NOMINATION PROJECT NUMBER: E/VGN-2004-0018

REF: (A) STATE 079533, (B) COLOMBO 0676

11. POST NOMINATES VEN. KIRINDE ASSAJI THERO, BUDDHIST
MONK/PRINCIPAL, SRI SUMANGALA DHAMMA SCHOOL, FOR
PARTICIPATION IN SUBJECT PROJECT.

12. NOMINATION IS AS FOLLOWS:

START FIXED-FORMAT TEXT (PLEASE DO NOT EDIT):

: The following data is in a fixed format which enables
: automated processing in Washington and should not be
: edited except by means of the Post-EVDB software.

EXPORT-SOURCE: POST-EVDB

VERSION: 3.0.5

POST-EMAIL: rscmb@pd.state.gov

TRANSMITTING-POST: PAS Colombo

TRANSMITTING-POST-ID: 2929

EXPORT-TYPE: BIO DATA

START NOMINATION:

ECA-OFFICE: E/VGN

PROG-AGENCY-NAME:

POST-PROJ-ID: 86

ECA-PROJ-NO: E/VGN-2004-0018

PROJ-NAME: Religious Diversity in the U.S. - February
16-March 5, 2004

START MEMO PROJ-DESC:

END MEMO PROJ-DESC:

PROJ-TYPE: Sub-Regional

PROG-TYPE: IV Group Projects

FY: 2004

DEPART-POST: 02/14/2004

SESSION-DATE: 02/16/2004

RETURN-POST: 03/07/2004

NO-OF-PART: 1

RANK-ORDER: 5

START MEMO POST-OBJ:

This nomination is in support of MPP goals on
"Democracy" and "Mutual Understanding"

END MEMO POST-OBJ:

START MEMO POST-RCMD:

END MEMO POST-RCMD:

ECA-OFFICE-ID: 1039

PROG-AGENCY-ID:

PROJ-TYPE-ID: SRP

PROG-TYPE-ID: 31

NOMINATING-POST-ID: 2929

FUNDING-CNTRY-ID:

STATUS: N

ORIGINATOR: P

SUBJ-DISC: Religion

START BIO:

PREFIX: Dr.

F-NAME: Kirinde

M-NAME:

L-NAME: ASSAJI

SUFFIX: Thero

POSITION-CODE: 0

PRINCIPAL?: Yes

M-ADDR1: Gangarama Temple

M-ADDR2: 61 Sri Jinarathana Road

M-ADDR3: Hunupitiya

M-CITY: Colombo 2

M-STATE:

M-CNTRY: Sri Lanka

M-ZONE:

M-ZIP:

M-PHONE: (94-1) 435-169

M-FAX: (94-1) 439-508

M-EMAIL: asaji@log.lk

M-CNTRY-ID: CE

M-ADDRTYPE: B

GENDER: M

DOB: 03/20/1968

MAR-STAT: S

BIRTH-CITY: Matara

BIRTH-CNTRY: Sri Lanka

CITIZ-CNTRY: Sri Lanka

RES-CNTRY: Sri Lanka

START MEMO POSITION:

Buddhist Monk/Principal, Sri Sumangala Dhamma School
END MEMO POSITION:
START MEMO OTHER-POSITIONS:
Director, Information and Technology Section of Sri
Jinarathana Vocational Training Centre
Religious Advisor, Sri Jinarathana Bhikku Abhyasa
Vidyalaya Karaka Sabawa
END MEMO OTHER-POSITIONS:
START MEMO PREV-POSITIONS:

END MEMO PREV-POSITIONS:
START MEMO US-TRAVEL:
May, 2002 - private visit
END MEMO US-TRAVEL:
START MEMO OTHER-TRAVEL:

END MEMO OTHER-TRAVEL:
START MEMO EDUCATION:
Final Examination of Oriental Studies Society
(equivalent to the B.A.(Hon.) degree), 1990
M.A., University of Delhi, India, 1995
Ph.D., University of Delhi, India, 1998
END MEMO EDUCATION:
START MEMO MEMBERSHIPS:

END MEMO MEMBERSHIPS:
START MEMO PUBLICATIONS:

END MEMO PUBLICATIONS:
START MEMO SPEC-CONSID:

END MEMO SPEC-CONSID:
FIRST-LANG: Sinhala
ENGL-READ: 3
ENGL-SPEAK: 3
ENGL-COMP: 3
START OTHER-LANGS:
OTHER-LANG: Japanese
OTHER-LANG-ID: JA
READ: 3
SPEAK: 3
COMP: 3
END OTHER-LANGS:
START MEMO NOM-POST-OBJ:
This nomination is in support of MPP goals on
"Democracy" and "Mutual Understanding"
END MEMO NOM-POST-OBJ:
START MEMO NOM-POST-RCMD:

END MEMO NOM-POST-RCMD:
START MEMO VIS-OBJ:

END MEMO VIS-OBJ:
START MEMO VIS-REC:

END MEMO VIS-REC:
NOMINATING-OFFICER: Joe Novak
START MEMO NOMINATING-JUSTIFICATION:
Ven. Assaji Thero is a bit unusual among the Buddhist
clergy because of his regular contact with individuals
who are not Sinhala Buddhists. His temple is
conducting IT training for all sections of the
community. Part of the difficulty of the peace process
is a lack of understanding and communication between
the different ethnic groups in Sri Lanka. Through
constant contacts with all sections of society, Ven.
Assaji Thero is doing his part in bridging differences
and establishing mutual understanding between the
Sinhala, the Tamil and the Muslim communities. Post
can further promote these activities which promote
social stability by exposing Ven. Assaji Thero to the
concepts behind multiculturalism and religious
diversity in the U.S.
Ven. Assaji Thero, who belongs to the Malwatte chapter
of the Buddhist establishment, is also an important
contact for the Mission. He is a resident of the
Gangarama Temple, which is closely affiliated to a
number of senior politicians of the governing United
National Party.
Post believes that Ven Assaji Thero will be an ideal
candidate for participation in SA/RP on "Religious
Diversity in the U.S." since his exposure to the U.S.
and to this project will bring a multiplier effect.

END MEMO NOMINATING-JUSTIFICATION:
NOM-OFF: Political
SPEAKER?: No
NOTIFY-EMB: Yes
MEDIA?: No
HOME-STAY: No
HOME-HOSP?: Yes
E-I-TYPE:
NOMINEE-ID: 121
PERSON-ID: 125
BIRTH-CNTRY-ID: CE

CITIZ-CNTRY-ID: CE
RES-CNTRY-ID: CE
FIRST-LANG-ID: SI
E-I-TYPE-ID:
NOM-POST-ID: 2929
NOM-FUNDING-CNTRY-ID:
NOM-STATUS: N
DS2019-ACTION: 0
DS2019-SUBJECT:
SPONS-FUNDS: 0
SPONS-AGENCY1:
USGOVT-AGENCY1:
US-AGENCY-AMT1: 0
USGOVT-AGENCY2:
US-AGENCY-AMT2: 0
INTL-ORG1:
INTL-ORG-AMOUNT1: 0
INTL-ORG2:
INTL-ORG-AMOUNT2: 0
VIS-GOVT-AMT: 0
COMMISSION: 0
OTHER-AMOUNT: 0
VIS-AMOUNT: 0
VIS-CAT:
END BIO:
END NOMINATION:
END FIXED-FORMAT TEXT:

13. PLEASE ADVISE ACCEPTANCE OF THIS NOMINATION.
WILLS